

REMARKS

Claims 155-176 presently are pending in the application. Sole pending claim 154 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 155-176 added by this Amendment. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner indicates that the drawings filed together with the application on November 18, 2003, are accepted.

Moreover, the Examiner has acknowledged the claim for foreign priority under §119, as well as receipt of all of the certified copies of the priority documents in the parent application 08/947,895.

The Examiner has returned initialed copies of the Forms PTO/SB/08. However, as discussed in Paragraph 1 on page 2 of the present Office Action, the Examiner indicates that the Examiner did not consider some of the foreign references listed by the Applicant because he could not find copies of these references in the file.

Accordingly, the undersigned called Examiner Letscher on February 25, 2005, in order to point out to him that copies of all of the references were in fact filed in the immediate parent application No. 10/337,869 in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 30, 2003. Applicants submit herewith a copy of the filing receipt date stamped January 30, 2003 and indicating that copies of the 43 references together with the PTO/SB/08 forms were submitted on that date. Examiner Letscher indicated that he would order the immediate parent file and check for the references.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/714,631

The Examiner has rejected the sole pending claim 154 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent 6,535,475. However, this rejection is now moot in view of the cancellation of claim 154.

Claim 154 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JPA 3-86968, which was published April 11, 1991. This rejection is likewise moot in view of the cancellation of claim 154.

As indicated above, Applicants have added new claims 155-176 to replace original independent claim 154. New claims 155-176 correspond to claims which have been allowed in the corresponding European patent application. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 155-176 are patentable over the cited references, including the previously applied JPA 3-86968.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul F. Neils", written over a horizontal line.

Paul F. Neils
Registration No. 33,102

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: July 15, 2005

Attorney Docket No.: Q78520